

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /074 W

----- 085589

O R 261132Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4324

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABARONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PINT, RH, SO

SUBJECT: NKOMO INTERVIEWS

REF: MOGADISCIO 1695

1. SUMMARY: ZIMBABWE LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO TAKES AN OPTIMISTIC
LINE ON ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST UNITY, AT LEAST FOR PUBLIC
CONSUMPTION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW REPORTED BY MOGADICIO RADIO FOLLOWING HIS
OCTOBER 19 MEETING WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT MOHAMED SIAD BARRE,
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NKOMO SAID THAT THE VARIOUS ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST GROUPS HAD

DRAWN "CLOSER" ON THE EVE OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON ZIMBABWE AND THAT NO "OUTSIDE FORCES" WOULD BE ABLE TO CAUSE DISUNITY AMONG THEM. ACCORDING TO NKOMO, ALL ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS NOW HAD ONLY OBJECTIVE -- THE INDEPENDENCE OF ZIMBABWE.

3. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, HOWEVER, NKOMO CAST CONSIDERABLE DOUBT ON THAT UNITY BY REAFFIRMING HIS OPPOSITION TO THE INCLUSION OF BISHOP MUZOREWA IN THE ZIMBABWE "PATRIOTIC FRONT" AND COMPLAINING THAT THE BISHOP HAD AVOIDED A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WHEN BOTH MEN WERE IN SALISBURY RECENTLY.

4. ON THE BRITISH ROLE AT GENEVA, NKOMO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN "WILL NOW BE GREAT ENOUGH" TO TAKE THE SAME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DECOLONIZATION OF ZIMBABWE AS GREAT BRITAIN HAD DONE IN THE CASE OF SO MANY OTHER DEPENDENT TERRITORIES.

5. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT MOGADISCIO AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE ON OCTOBER 21, NKOMO SAID THAT BRITAIN IS THE "KEY" TO THE SUCCESS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE HOPED THAT BRITAIN "WILL PRODUCE ACCEPTABLE TERMS" FOR A SOLUTION OF THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT REMOVED FROM THE SCENE OF THE ACTION, IT IS THE EMBASSY'S GUESS THAT HIS INSISTENCE ON BRITAIN'S ROLE REFLECTS NKOMO'S REALISTIC ESTIMATE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AHEAD IN TRANSFERRING AND SHARING OUT THE POWER IN ZIMBABWE, PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT NATIONALIST UNITY NOTWITHSTANDING.

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